

PERSHING SEES NO DANGER SIGN

Denies U. S. Troops in Mexico Are Menaced by Carranzistas

BANDITS KEEP AWAY

Army Posts Along Texan Border on Guard Against Acts of Mexican Incendiaries

Washington, May 15.—Information, helpful to the Administration in guiding its future course toward Mexico, was presented today to Secretary of War Baker by Chief of Staff Scott.

General Scott had a short conference with the Secretary after reaching Washington this morning. He left some data with reference to his conferences with General Obregon, and then went to his home at Fort Myer to rest.

Secretary Baker said General Scott will not take up the Mexican situation with him or with Secretary Lansing until tomorrow.

"General Scott appeared to be in a very hopeful frame of mind," Secretary Baker said. "He seemed to feel that a very favorable situation has been created by his conferences with General Obregon."

Secretary Baker has no confirmation of reports of new border raids. He is also without news from Major Langhorne's punitive expedition against the Glen Springs raiders.

Advance, Punitive Expedition U. S. Army (near Laguna de Itzacate Mexico), May 13, via Radio to Columbus, N. M., May 14.—General Pershing, commander of the expedition, visited the camp yesterday afternoon on a tour of inspection.

He emphatically denied the alarmist rumor published by many American newspapers to the effect that the army now in Mexico is menaced by Carranzistas on every hand.

"You may say," he said, "that our army now in Mexico is finally able to cope with any situation which may arise, but you may add also that there is no sign of danger of an attack by any sources or direction."

"The result of the battle of Ojos Azules a few days ago put such fear in the heads of the bandits that it will be a long time before they invite another such beating as was given them."

General Pershing denied categorically that there had been any movement of the army toward the border or that any such movement was intended in the near future. The lines of communication are well guarded and forces so well disposed as to be in no danger of being attacked.

BANDITS ROB AUTOISTS

Two Hold-Ups in Maryland Yield Highwayman \$500 in Cash

Washington, May 15.—Two youths, masked, held up five men in Maryland, just over the District line Saturday night and made a haul of \$500. The men held up were Fred Vogt, of the Bellevue Hotel, who lost the \$500; Joseph A. Jennings, William A. Hoefler, Alexander Ballando and Thomas I. McDermott.

Jennings and Hoefler, in one automobile, were the first to be held up. The highwaymen, who were armed with pistols, went through their pockets and finding nothing of value, told them to move on. Immediately afterward Vogt, Ballando and McDermott came along in another machine and the highwaymen pounced upon them. Vogt was compelled to hand over a wallet containing the \$500 and some valuable papers.

The highwaymen, who were heavily masked, left no clue as to their identity.

DEATH NOTICE

CLIFT—On Sunday, May 14, 1916, at her home in Stafford County, Va., MRS. MILDRED MONTIETH, widow of John H. Clift, and mother of Percy E. Clift, of this city. Funeral services at Bethel Church Stafford County, Va., on Tuesday, May 16, at 3 p. m.

DEATH OF ALEXANDRIAN

Bryan Lathrop, Born in This City. Succumbs in Chicago

Bryan Lathrop, real estate dealer and capitalist of Chicago died at his home in that city Saturday.

Mr. Lathrop was a brother-in-law of Thomas Nelson Page, United States Ambassador to Italy, and was well known in business, music art and social circles.

Mr. Lathrop was born in Alexandria August 6, 1844, and was educated at the Dinwiddie School in Virginia and later in Germany and France.

PEACE REIGNS IN INDIA.

People are Tranquil and Prosperous, Simla Dispatch Says.

Ottawa, Ont., May 15.—The internal affairs of India, despite reports of rebellion, mutiny and bloodshed, have remained perfectly satisfactory, according to a Reuter dispatch from Simla.

Peace reigns on the border, and except for ordinary police affairs the huge population of India is tranquil and is not unprosperous. Recruiting continues good, especially among the Jats, Rajputans and Punjab Mahomedans.

BODY SEEN IN THE RIVER

Returning Merchants Report Discovery Off Bryan's Point—Search is Begun

A body, believed to be that of one of the two aviators who lost their lives Thursday off Bryan's Point, just opposite Mt. Vernon, was seen floating on the Potomac this morning by members of the Retail Merchants' Association who were returning from the fourth annual outing of the organization on the steamer Three Rivers.

A number of the passengers saw the body, which was floating, face down, just off Bryan's Point, where the accident occurred.

Police authorities of Alexandria and Washington have been notified, and it is expected that the body will be recovered without difficulty. The men who lost their lives were Charles Good, student-aviator, of Elyria, O., and Louis Crants, of the Atlantic Coast Aeronautical Station, at Newport News, Va.

LOCAL BREVITIES

The First Baptist Sunday school broke all previous records yesterday when there was 486 pupils at the commencement of the lesson period.

James B. Martin, past exalted ruler of Alexandria Lodge of Elks, who has been quite ill at his home on Queen street has recovered.

Mother's Day was appropriately observed in the churches of the city yesterday. There was special music and sermons relative to the day were preached by the pastors.

Mrs. I. L. Crants, and Charles Crants, wife and brother of Aviator Crants, who was drowned in the aeroplane accident on Thursday returned to their home in Hammondsport New York Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wycomb and their niece, Miss Dorothy Landon will be the guests of Mrs. Bob Grey, at dinner on Friday evening, May 19. Come and see them at the Young People's Building in "The Time of His Life."

Mrs. Adelaide Frances Martin, wife of Thomas B. Martin, died early yesterday morning at her home near Sharon, Fairfax county. Mrs. Martin was 60 years old and is survived by two children, John Martin and Mrs. Hattie Dyer. Her funeral will take place tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock.

The Alexandria Branch of the Virginia War Relief Society has sent another box to Richmond to be forwarded to the soldiers in the war zone.

The Alexandria High School will have a graduating class of sixteen and the exercises will take place on June 19th, in the high school auditorium.

DEVILED & HARD SHELL CRABS AT JACOB BRILL'S FOOT KING ST.

STORM OF SHELLS ON DEAD MAN HILL

Germans Continue Fierce Bombardments of French Positions

TRENCHES RETAKEN

Fierce Conflicts Around Verdun Result in No Material Success for Either Belligerent

Paris, May 15.—French troops drove the enemy from a first line trench near Vermandevilliers, south of the Somme, said an official statement today.

Around Verdun heavy bombardment in the region of Avocourt wood constituted practically the only activity.

In the Champagne region, the French cleaned out a German work west of Mont Tatu, taking some prisoners.

Paris, May 15.—French positions near Dead Man Hill, on the Verdun front, were bombarded violently last night, but there was no infantry attacks. A German thrust south of Roye was repulsed, the War Office statement reports.

The Belgian statement says: "After a period of calm, artillery action was renewed with great activity in the region of Dixmude."

Berlin, May 15.—The repulse of a French attack with hand grenades on German positions in the vicinity of Hill No. 304, on the Verdun front is announced in the statement of yesterday from General Headquarters.

London, May 15.—The British official statement on the campaign in France and Belgium reads:

"On Saturday night, after a heavy bombardment by guns of all natures, the enemy attacked our lines about the Ploegsteert wood in three parties. One party succeeded in entering our trenches, but was immediately ejected leaving ten dead. The other parties were met on the parapet by Scottish troops and dispersed."

"Early yesterday morning one of our patrols entered the enemy trenches south of La Basse Canal. Our artillery bombarded enemy positions north of Monchy-au-Bois and east of Vermelles. "Hostile artillery and trench mortars were active about Maricourt, Loos, Souchez, Cambrai and St. Eloi. There was some activity about Souchez, the Hohenzollern redoubt, Givenchy and St. Eloi."

SIX SHOT DOWN BY COUNTESS

Australian Physician Tells of Fighting in Dublin

New York, May 15.—Dr. Cecil D. McAdam, of Melbourne, Australia, who was attached to the Royal Medical Corps of the British Army during the Gallipoli campaign and who was besieged in the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin, Ireland, during the recent rebellion there, arrived here yesterday on the steamship Philadelphia from Liverpool. He declared he had more narrow escapes in the Irish capital during the short time he was there than in all the Gallipoli campaign.

Dr. McAdam said he saw the Countess Markievicz, attired in man's clothing and wearing a brace of revolvers, leading the Irish rebels. He was informed, he added, that she had shot six of her followers because they refused to obey her orders.

GORED TO DEATH BY BULL

John Clague Dies at the Easton Emergency Hospital.

Easton, Md., May 15.—Attacked by an angry bull when he entered the stable on the farm of J. Ramsey Speer, near Trappe, Md., late Saturday night, John Clague died from the injuries early yesterday morning at the Easton Hospital, where he was conveyed in the automobile of Dr. Philip L. Travers. In attempting to save Clague several of the other employees on the farm had a narrow escape from the infuriated animal. One of the men stepped on Clague's face in trying to get out of the way of the bull.

PROPOSED NEW BRIDGE

Defect in Bill for Million-Dollar Structure Between Rosslyn and Washington Corrected

The defect in the bill appropriating \$1,000,000 for the new bridge from Rosslyn to Washington, which was discovered after the bill had been signed by President Wilson, has been corrected. Congressman Carlin of this city put the new bill through the house on Friday afternoon and it went to the Senate on Saturday where similar action was taken. The bill will now go to the president for his signature.

The new bridge will almost certainly be constructed from Hume St., near the Arlington Bank in Rosslyn to 34th and M streets, Georgetown, two blocks below the present Aqueduct bridge.

The Virginia approach will rise to the river bank to a level 50 feet above the river which is 20 feet above Aqueduct bridge. This will afford passage in the clear for all vessels that may want to go up the river.

The bridge will then run across the stream in two or three concrete spans the Georgetown approach reaching M street about the 34th street crest. There a Y will be made, one branch running into M street in a convenient angle, the other going out 34th street to N. The hill between M and N streets with its crest at Prospect street, will be cut down to M street level and a slight irregularity in 34th between M and Prospect will be corrected by widening 34th street.

The new outlet to N street will relieve greatly the M street congestion and traffic will find its way either across the new 2 street bridge or by 1 street to the center of the city and to union station. With little doubt the Washington-Virginia company will cross the new structure from Rosslyn to its owner's tracks in Georgetown; for the new bridge will be 80 to 85 feet wide and will carry a double car track.

It is expected that the wagon road will be put in the center and the footway and car tracks on each side. This will obviate any necessity for vehicles or foot passengers to cross the car tracks.

Drawings in the nature of a study for the new bridge, are already in existence; but these must be modified to meet new facts found by examination of the site. They will, however, greatly facilitate the making of final plans and drawings.

The first move for the new bridge will be to take soundings, test the river bed by boring and observe the currents so as to determine the exact location most desirable at or near the site of the present bridge. The observation of one man much interested that the engineers will build where they can put a bridge for \$1,000,000 was answered by an engineer who has been for several years studying the matter by saying that a fine bridge can probably be built for \$1,000,000 anywhere within the limits of the city. It is a question of getting the best.

The work on Aqueduct bridge is most urgently needed and the laying of a new oak floor under an allocation of \$2,500 from the District commissioners is almost completed. This will permit the passage of heavy trucks again. Also the regulation permitting only one car at a time will probably be modified in the near future. It is pointed out in this that the several spans of the bridge are independent and a car on one affects those adjacent very little; it only needs that two cars shall not run on one span at one time, if precaution is desirable.

The work of examining and strengthening the doubtful piers will be the first thing taken up under the new law and the engineers are confident that the \$25,000 appropriation so far used as to make the structure as safe as ever and as capable of accommodating the traffic over it. Three of the piers, it has become generally known in the discussion of the new law, are new and sound, and the others can be quite securely repaired for two or three years longer.

—MAY DANCE—
Benefit of
Cardinal Athletic Club
Odd fellows' Hall
WEDNESDAY MAY 17, 1916
8:30 p. m. Tickets 50 cents

DEMAND MORE RIGID REPORTS

Letters Prepared By State Tax Board Insist on Accuracy

MANY DODGE THE LAW

Of 18,000 Dealers in Virginia Records Show Only One-Half Reported Correct Purchases

Richmond May 15.—Letters are being prepared by the State Tax Board to be sent out this week to examiners of records and commissioners of the revenue calling upon them to investigate strictly and rigidly the reports of purchases of every merchant, especially those reports which would permit the maker to satisfy his obligations to the State by paying a license fee of \$5 or \$10.

Notice of this warning is contained in a letter, which goes forward today from the State Auditor's office to the commissioners of revenue. These officers are put on notice to bring to the attention of merchants, when they take out their licenses, the necessity of stating accurately their actual purchases. The loose manner heretofore prevailing in assessing merchants' license taxes, the commissioners are notified, will not be permitted if the enforcement of the laws of the State can prevent it.

Of a total of 18,000 merchants in Virginia, 9,000, or one-half, reported last year that their total purchases were less than \$1,000 on which they paid the minimum license tax of \$5. More than 3,000 reported purchases not in excess of \$2,000 and paid a license tax of \$10. It is clear to the State Tax Board that most of these 12,000 merchants grossly underrated the value of their purchases and in this manner evaded the payment of a large sum of taxes.

The fact that the merchants' license taxes were not changed by the last Legislature has left the Tax Board only the remedy of compelling a truthful compliance with the law respecting purchases in order to secure from this source a portion of the increased revenues that will be needed in 1917 to wipe out an impending deficit. The merchants themselves have estimated that the amendments requiring a more careful accounting as to purchases will bring in additional revenues amounting to approximately \$200,000 a year.

Auditor Moore's letter to the commissioners of the revenues serves notice that the State Tax Board will shortly issue instructions to examiners and local boards of review respecting the investigation of all returns of merchants' purchases, and reads, in part, as follows:

"The Commonwealth has heretofore failed to realize a considerable amount of the revenue she was entitled to receive, under the law, from merchants, due to the fact that numerous merchants have not accurately reported their purchases, and due to the fact that commissioners of the revenue have not always required merchants to make the reports of purchase under oath as the law directs, and to the fact that commissioners have not examined the in-

The DEKOVEN QUARTETTE

(Baltimore)
Sara Storm Crommer, Soprano,
Samuel Eischenback, Tenor
Mabel R. Flaherty, Alto,
Edgar R. Dobson, Baritone,
H. Patterson Hopkins, pianist

Benefit Musical Fund Second

Presbyterian Church.

Westminster Building.

MONDAY, MAY 15, 1916.

8 O'clock.
Tickets, 50 cent.

Reserved Seats at Warfields
Drug Store.

voices, books, and accounts of the merchants, not have the commissioners tested the accuracy of the reports furnished them by taking into consideration the answers made by the merchants respecting expenses for rent, rental value of premises, expense for employees, etc., which would be a guide in determining whether the purchases are correctly reported, because the amount of expenses under which a merchant does business will indicate whether the probable profits on the purchases reported will justify the expense borne in carrying on the business.

"In instances it has been the custom of the commissioner merely to ask the merchant 'if his purchases were about the same as they were the last year' or 'Shall I put you down the same as last year?' and similar questions."

"The position you hold in assessing the revenue of the Commonwealth is the most responsible position in the fiscal department of the Commonwealth, and I desire now to impress this fact upon you and trust the manner in which you discharge your duty in connection with the assessment of the merchants' license taxes, as well as the manner in which you discharge the other duties put upon you by the law, will be evidenced by your activity, capacity and fidelity."

ALEXANDRIA COMPANY

Light Infantry Will be Reorganized

—New Enlistments Expected by Present Officers

The Alexandria Light Infantry, officially known as Company G, First Regiment Virginia Volunteers, is to be reorganized tonight according to a notice which has been issued by the officers of the company. The notice which is signed by Conrad Johnson, captain; J. D. McLean, first lieutenant; F. Clinton Knight, second lieutenant and Charles J. Deahl, Jr., first sergeant, calls for volunteers for the company and states that at tonight's meeting the whole subject of a military organization in Alexandria will be reviewed.

The company which has had a long and honored career has been declining for several years and at the present time has only about one half of the required number of men, but the new officers hope to secure many new enlistments. Captain Johnson and Lieutenant McLean are in charge of the cadet corps of the Alexandria High School and it is expected that as the cadets graduate from that institution they will join the Light Infantry.

The city council of Alexandria has agreed to pay off the mortgage on the armory on Royal street and put same in first class repair and will do so as soon as the company is recruited to the legal strength.

RICH FARMER MURDERED.

Amos Becton Has Altercation With a White Tenant.

Kinston, N. C., May 15.—Amos Becton, residing near here and one of the wealthiest and most prominent farmers in Eastern North Carolina, was fatally wounded Saturday night in an altercation with Bryant Sanderson, a white tenant. The injured man died. Becton's throat was cut, and he lay in the road several hours before a physician arrived on the scene. Sanderson escaped and is being hunted by posses. Becton owns valuable estates in Kinston, Lenoir and James counties. It is said he was reprimanding Sanderson for neglect of duty when he was assaulted and cut by the younger man.

FEAST OF THE SEVEN TABLES

Under the Auspices of
The Ladies' Aid
Of the Second Presbyterian Church
Thursday, May 18, 1916

Tickets 25 Cents

COMING

Friday, May 19, 1916
The Phi Mu Sigma Players.

M. E. Church, South, in
THE TIME OF HIS LIFE

A side-splitting, three act comedy.

Young People's Building 8 o'clock
Admission 25c

Tickets at Allen's Drug Store

FAVOR UNION WITH SOUTHERN CHURCH

Committee on Episcopacy of
M. E. Church Endorses
Proposal

SPLIT OVER SLAVERY

Recommendation for Seven Bishops—
Report on Amusement Issue Will
Be Taken Up Soon

Saratoga Springs, N. Y., May 15.—The committee on episcopacy of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in general conference here, has voted to endorse the proposal to unite the Methodist Episcopal Church and Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the two great branches of the Methodism which became divided over the question of slavery seventy-two years ago, it was reported, here today.

The recommendation that seven bishops or general superintendents be elected will be made to the general conference today by the committee on episcopacy. Six of the new bishops will be assigned to episcopal areas in the United States, and one will be stationed at Seoul, Korea. In addition, two missionary bishops will be recommended for work in Africa to succeed Bishop Scott and Hartzell. One of the latter is to be of African descent, if the committee resolution is approved.

A new episcopal residence will be established at Detroit, the Oklahoma residence will be transferred to Pittsburgh, and that at Kansas City, Kans., will be moved to Wichita, Kans.

It is planned to have the balloting for the new bishops start today and be continued until all of the required number have received a two-thirds vote of the conference.

Announcement was made last night that the committee on state of the church, to which was referred the much-discussed question of amusements, will report in favor of eliminating from the discipline the prohibition of dancing, theater attendance and card playing. Another important subject to be taken up during the coming week is the general statement of attitude of the church on the question of temperance and prohibition. The temperance committee has agreed upon a report which goes farther than the Methodist Episcopal Church has ever gone before.

The conference also will demand the closing of the United States mails to all liquor advertising. While the report indorses the church's own temperance society for educational work, and the promotion of total abstinence, it also indorses the Anti-Saloon League as the agency of the Methodist Church for co-operating with other churches in obtaining legislation and laws enforcement, and the political work necessarily incident to such activity.

ALL CONFIDENT OF VICTORY.

Teutons Want Peace Only to Resume Trade, Says S. S. McClure

New York, May 15.—Samuel S. McClure, the publisher, who arrived from Copenhagen Thursday on the steamer Oscar 11, said that he found a sentiment for peace only in Germany and America.

"I have visited all the belligerent nations and did not find a suggestion of peace anywhere except in those two countries where the people desire it for commercial reasons only," said Mr. McClure. "By that I mean they wish to resume their business relations with other nations, not that they fear defeat. The English, French, Russians, Belgians, Italians, Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians and Turks, all are confident of victory for their respective armies and determined to fight to the end."

HARD SHELL CRABS NOW ON SALE AT RAMMELS CAFE